UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/770,279	01/29/2001	Toshihiro Shima	Q62411	6249

7590 11/14/2005	**EXAMINER**
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3213	KE, PENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		09/770,279	SHIMA, TOSHIHIRO
		Examiner	Art Unit
		Peng Ke	2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 August 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to communications: Amendment, filed on 8/25/05.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 are independent

claims. In the Amendment, filed on 11/8/04, claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 were amended, and claims

19-21 were added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 – 7, 9 – 15, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Zellweger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,230,170 in view of Choi et al. US Patent

No. 6,211,856.

As per claim 1, Zellweger teaches an information display system comprising:

means for providing, on a screen of a computer, default sized display areas for a plurality

of elements each having detailed information (see Zellweger, figure 11, items 140 – 144);

means for enlarging a corresponding, default sized display area when a user selects an

element from said plurality of elements (see Zellweger, figures 11 – 12 and column 11, lines 22 -

29);

means for displaying additional information for said selected element in said enlarged,

corresponding display area (see Zellweger, figures 11 – 12 and column 11, lines 22 – 29; it is

apparent that the annotation 148 is additional information because it is not displayed on the

screen until annotation mark 144 is selected); and

means for also displaying, on said screen, those elements that were not selected so that

none of said elements are hidden under said enlarged, corresponding display area (see Zellweger,

figure 12).

Wherein each of the plurality of elements comprises at least one sub-element that the user

can manipulate (col. 11, lines 23-col. 12, lines 55; Examiner interprets the expansion of the

annotation when the annotation is selected by a user to be a element that the user can manipulate)

However, Zellweger fails to teach sub-element relates to a setting of a device.

Choi teaches sub-element relates to a setting of a device (see Choi, column 1, lines 52-

column 2, lines 8)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Choi's

teaching with the system of Zellweger in order to allow user to choose the desired display text

size on a device.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of

claim 1 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the information display wherein said

means for displaying said unselected elements includes means for reducing sizes of said default

sized display areas for said unselected elements and for summarizing contents displayed therein

(see Zellweger, figure s 15 – 18 and column 12, lines 39 – 55).

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the information display system further comprising means for, when one of said plurality of elements is selected, adjusting arrangement on said display screen of said display areas for said plurality of elements (see Zellweger, figures 11 and 12 and column 11, lines 21 – 30).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the information display system wherein an element that is related to an objective or the needs of the user is included in said plurality of elements (see Zellweger, figure 18 and column 12, lines 50 - 55).

As per claims 6, 7, 9, and 10, they are of similar scope to claims 1, 2, 4, and 5, respectively, and are rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 11, it is of similar scope to claim 1 and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 1.

As per claim 12, Zellweger teaches a method of displaying information on a screen of a computer comprising:

displaying on said screen a plurality of elements, each element is displayed in a default sized display area (see Zellweger, figure 11, items 140 – 144);

enlarging a corresponding, default sized display area when a user selects an element from

said plurality of elements (see Zellweger, figures 11 – 12 and column 11, lines 22 - 29);

obtaining from memory sub-elements of said selected element that the user can

manipulate; (col. 11, lines 23-col. 12, lines 55; Examiner interprets the expansion of the

annotation when the annotation is selected by a user to be a element that the user can manipulate.

Furthermore, it is inherent that the expansion of the annotation is stored in the memory because

without storing of the expansion, the expansion would not be displayed upon user selection)

displaying said sub-elements for said selected element in said enlarged, corresponding

display area (see Zellweger, figures 11 – 12 and column 11, lines 22 – 29; it is inherent that the

annotation 148 is retrieved from memory because it is not displayed on the screen until

annotation mark 144 is selected); and

displaying, on said screen, unselected elements so that none of said elements are hidden

under said enlarged, corresponding display area (see Zellweger, figure 12).

However, Zellweger fails to teach sub-element relates to a setting of a device.

Choi teaches sub-element relates to a setting of a device (see Choi, column 1, lines 52-

column 2, lines 8)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Choi's

teaching with the system of Zellweger in order to allow user to choose the desired display text

size on a device.

As per claim 13, which is dependent on claim 12, Zellweger and Choi teach the method

of claim 12 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the method of displaying

information on a screen of a computer according to claim 12, wherein when the user selects a

sub-element from said sub-elements displaying a subsequent level of information for said

selected sub-element in said enlarged corresponding display area so that none of said unselected

elements and unselected sub-elements is hidden (see Zellweger, figures 23 and 24 and column

13, lines 8 – 17).

As per claim 14, which is dependent on claim 13, Zellweger and Choi teach the method

of claim 13 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the method of displaying

information on a screen of a computer according to claim 13, wherein said enlarged

corresponding display area is further enlarged without hiding any of the unselected elements and

said unselected sub-elements (see Zellweger, figure 24).

As per claim 15, which is dependent on claim 12, Zellweger and Choi teach the method

of claim 12 (see rejection above). Zellweger further teaches the method of displaying

information on a screen of a computer according to claim 12, further comprising, upon further

selection of a different element by said user, enlarging a corresponding display area of said

different element and displaying said different element with a sub-element not previously

displayed in said corresponding display area, without hiding the previously selected element with

said sub-elements and any of said unselected elements (see Zellweger, figures 23 and 24 and

column 13, lines 8 – 17).

As per claim 19, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1. Choi further teaches the device comprises one of: a printer, a computer (see Choi, column 2 lines 13-30; PDA is a computer)

As per claim 20, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1. Choi further teaches at least one sub-element, the user sets at least one parameter by manually inputting a value for the parameter or by selecting the value that is display in the display area. (figure 2b, items 30)

As per claim 21, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1. Choi further teaches at least one sub-element, the user can manipulate the setting of the device. (see Choi, column 1, lines 52-column 2, lines 8)

Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zellweger et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,230,170 Choi et al. US Patent No. 6,211,856 further in view of Kanevsky et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,426,761.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 1 (see rejection above). Zellweger and Choi do not teach further teaches the information display system wherein said means for displaying said unselected elements includes means for adjusting sizes of display areas of said unselected elements to reflect a magnitude of relevancy of said unselected elements to said selected element. Kanevsky teaches further teaches the information display system wherein said means for displaying said unselected elements includes means for adjusting sizes of display areas of said unselected elements to reflect a magnitude of

relevancy of said unselected elements to said selected element (see Kanevsky et al., column 4, lines 24 – 30 and column 11, lines 55 – 58; the relevancy of a group of icons determines the spatial clustering of the fractal centralized around an icon). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Kanevsky with the method of Zellweger and Choi in order to provide improved access to useful information for a user.

As per claim 8, it is of similar scope to claim 3 and is rejected under the same rationale as claim 3.

Claims 16, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zellweger et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,230,170 Choi et al. US Patent No. 6,211,856. further in view of Hoeber et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,230,063.

As per claim 16, which is dependent on claim 12, Zellweger and Choi teach the method of claim 12 (see rejection above). Zellweger and Choi do not teach the method of displaying information on a screen of a computer according to claim 12, further comprising piercing a setting pin to a display area corresponding to an element thereby preventing enlargement and reduction of said display area upon further selections.

Hoeber teaches piercing a setting pin to a display area corresponding to an element thereby preventing removing of the display area from the screen upon further selections (see Hoeber, figures 3(a) – 3(c) and column 2, lines 46 – 50). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Hoeber with the

method of Zellweger and Choi in order to allow retaining of an object on the screen.

As per claims 17 and 18, they are of the same scope as claim 16. (Supra)

Response to Argument

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are deemed

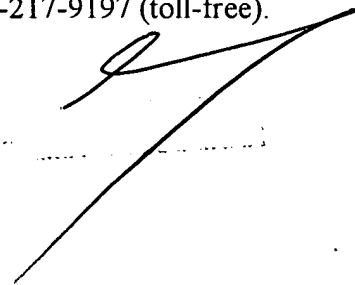to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Peng Ke whose telephone number is (571) 272-4062. The

examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peng Ke